



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

# State Water Resources Control Board



Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

## Executive Office

Charles R. Hoppin, Chairman  
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**AUG 25 2010**

Phil Isenberg, Chair  
Delta Stewardship Council  
650 Capitol Mall  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Joe Grindstaff, Interim Executive Officer  
Delta Stewardship Council  
650 Capitol Mall  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Isenberg and Mr. Grindstaff:

## FINAL REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT OF FLOW CRITERIA FOR THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA ECOSYSTEM

This letter transmits the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) flow determinations made pursuant to Water Code section 85086, subdivision (c). Water Code section 85086 was enacted on November 12, 2009, in Senate Bill No. 1 of the 2009-2010 Seventh Extraordinary Session (Stats. 2009 (7th Ex. Sess.) ch. 5, § 39) (SB 1). Pursuant to SB 1, the State Water Board is required to develop new flow criteria for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecosystem (Delta) within nine months of enactment of the statute and submit its flow criteria determinations to the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) within 30 days of their development. The State Water Board's flow criteria determinations and supporting information are included in the State Water Board's final report titled "Development of Flow Criteria for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecosystem" (Report).

The State Water Board developed the flow criteria through a public process. The State Water Board held an informational proceeding to receive scientific information concerning development of the flow criteria on March 22, 23, and 24, 2010. The State Water Board released a draft Report for public review and comment on July 20, 2010, and adopted a resolution approving the final Report on August 3, 2010. In developing the flow criteria, the State Water Board reviewed instream needs in the Delta ecosystem, specifically fish species and Delta outflows, while also receiving information on hydrodynamics and major tributary inflows.

Two paper copies of the final Report are enclosed along with a compact disc (CD) containing:

- 1) a pdf copy of the report;
- 2) comments from interested participants on the July 20, 2010 draft Report; and

**California Environmental Protection Agency**



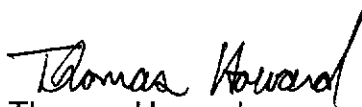
- 3) key summary information submitted by the Delta Environmental Flows Group and a subset of this group, the UC Davis Delta Solutions Group, each composed of experts who provided information for the State Water Board's informational proceeding.

The final report and associated material from the informational proceeding can all be found on the State Water Board's website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/bay\\_delta/deltaflow/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/deltaflow/).

The State Water Board looks forward to working with the Council, Bay Delta Conservation Program, and others in the future to address the Delta's complex ecosystem and water supply challenges. Please contact Les Grober, Environmental Program Manager, at [lgrober@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:lgrober@waterboards.ca.gov) or (916) 341-5428, for any additional information that you may require concerning this matter.

Sincerely,



Thomas Howard  
Executive Director

Enclosures:

1. Two copies of report on "Development of Flow Criteria for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecosystem"
2. CD containing:
  - Comments on July 20, 2010 draft report on "Development of Flow Criteria for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecosystem"
  - Information submitted by the Delta Environmental Flows Group
    - Exhibit 1 - Key Points on Delta Environmental Flows for the State Water Resources Control Board, February 2010
    - Exhibit 2 - Changing ecosystems: a brief ecological history of the Delta, February 2010
    - Information submitted by the UC Davis Delta Solutions Group: Habitat Variability and Complexity in the Upper San Francisco Estuary
    - On Developing Prescriptions for Freshwater Flows to Sustain Desirable Fishes in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
    - Ecosystem Investments for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: Development of a Portfolio Framework

cc: See next page.

Chairman Isenberg  
Mr. Grindstaff

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cc: Lester Snow, Secretary  
Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

BDCP Steering Committee Members  
c/o Karen Scarborough, Undersecretary  
Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
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